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It is one of nature's mysteries and he who depends upon his skill at any game in which the purely physical quality plays an essential part should live that a competency may be had against the time when a younger and better man comes along. That youth will be served is something for every athlete to remember.

Leaving Santo Domingo.

Circulation has been given to so many garbled and incomplete versions of the terms under which the United States is to withdraw from its occupancy of the Dominican Republic that the detailed explanation of our attitude issued by our Department of State and printed elsewhere on this page should be read carefully by all who are interested in this subject.

The charges of bad faith, of attempts to coerce the Dominicans, of efforts to hand pick Dominican delegates to negotiate the convention of evacuation, all fall to the ground when this simple and straightforward declaration of purpose and process is read. The requirement that adequate provision shall be made for the payment of the latest loan floated by the military government is not oppressive or unusual.

The whole arrangement, as projected by the United States, is fair to the Dominican Republic and to its people. Our temporary assistance to the Dominicans will end as it began, in real friendship and with sincere regard for their rights.

Labor Costs in Steel Making.

In announcing another slash in steel prices E. G. GRACE, president of the great Bethlehem Steel Company, shows what it is that is at the bottom of the high costs, which as yet make it so hard to sell goods at the normal prices that consumers would pay.

The making of a ton of finished steel requires the transportation of five tons of raw materials. For the ore, coal, limestone, scrap and miscellaneous supplies which must be transported to make structural shapes the increased freight cost over pre-war levels is \$7.85 a ton. But increased transportation charges by the railroads go almost entirely into increased labor charges against the railroads.

The increased market cost over pre-war levels of the ore, coal, limestone, alloys, refractories, lubricants, etc., which go to make up the ton of structural shapes, is \$7.10 a ton. But here, again, the increased costs of these materials are overwhelmingly the increased labor costs in them.

The increased labor cost of making at the steel mill the ton of structural shapes out of those five tons of materials, even after the recent wage reductions now in effect at the mills, is \$5.64 a ton.

Here are increased manufacturing costs—very largely labor costs—of \$20.59 a ton on the finished product. In December, 1914, the selling price of structural material touched \$24.21 a ton, the low price in the last twenty years. In other words the added manufacturing costs, accounted for chiefly by increased labor costs, amount now to almost as much as the actual selling price was in December, 1914.

There cannot be normal prices in this country and there cannot be normal business in this country until war inflation labor prices are deflated by 320,000.

Greater New York Republicans, Independent Democrats, plain Independents and other anti-Tammany voters want to put the Murphy-Hylan organized appetite out of the Mayor and the Board of Estimate they will get together and stick together on a fighting fusion ticket. If they want to hand the municipal election to the Tammany tribe on a gold platter they will drive straight ticket wedges into anti-Tammany solidarity to split it into futile fragments.

When Man Is Physically Best.

If there is anything in the theory that man is at the top of his physical vigor at 27, the time is not far off when JACK DEMSEY will find his match in the prize ring. Somewhere in the United States there is in the making a youngster who will have the punch to put him to sleep.

Just why 27 should be man's physical turning point—the age when muscular disintegration sets in—has never been explained. The world's greatest baseball players, jockeys, swimmers and track athletes recognize the fact in a slowing up difficult to describe. Some of them say the process involves a condition beyond the physical. The mental processes do not synchronize with the muscular faculties as perfectly as at an earlier period. For success in any form of athletic endeavor there must be sympathetic and instant cooperation between the brain and the machinery of the body.

"Do it first" has a special application to the prize ring. It is this impulse which spells the difference between genius and mediocrity on the back of a race horse. The rider who sees an opening and takes advantage of it in the kaleidoscopic changes of a race is the one who wins nine times out of ten. It is also the quality which produces the Ty Cobbs of the baseball world.

There are fighters, jockeys, hall players and track athletes in general who are conspicuous for their merit after 30, but statistics indicate that the period of physical deterioration begins at or about the twenty-seventh year.

Grand Circuit Under Way.

With the opening of the Grand Circuit at the North Randall track near Cleveland on Monday last began a campaign of interest to every lover of the American trotting horse.

While there are upward of 1,500 trotting tracks, great and small, in the United States, it is the racing on the Grand Circuit with its big stakes and purses which attracts the best horses and drivers. These contests set the pace for the other organizations and furnish an incentive for breeders to produce trotters and pacers capable of winning at Cleveland, Columbus, Lexington, Poughkeepsie, Hartford, Atlanta and other points dominated by the organization of which HARRY K. DEVERAUX of Cleveland is the head.

The standard bred has always had a following among men of wealth and influence in this country. Many individuals who never raced their horses for money premiums have owned and bred the finest specimens. They took pleasure in driving them or seeing them driven by others. In this category are included men like

ROBERT and DAVID BONNER, Commodore VANDERBILT and his son WILLIAM H. VANDERBILT, FRANK W. COLE, Colonel LAWRENCE KIP, ALBERT HALL, General BRAYTON IVES and E. T. BENFORD.

Then there was the contingent composed of men who found their pleasure in the breeding and racing of horses, some reared by themselves and others bought in the public market. Foremost in this division for many years were MONROE SALISBURY of California and CECIL J. HAMLIN of Buffalo. Later FRANK JONES of Memphis joined ability as a reinsman equal to that of a professional to the qualities of a Salisbury or a Hamlin. Then came the breeder of the type of A. B. COKE of Pennsylvania, DAVID LOOK of Connecticut and Kentucky, W. B. DICKERMAN of Maryland and RICHARD DELAFIELD of Monroe, New York State, who bred trotters and raced the products of their individual studs with the aid of capable professionals.

In health and enjoyment their ventures had a return which can be estimated only by those who are on the quarter stretch at Cleveland this week watching MURPHY, COX, GEERS, EDMAN, FLEMING, SERRILL, STOKES and other reinsmen display their skill.

Great Britain's Pacificator.

Premier of the Union of South Africa by vocation, one of the small company of statesmen who survived participation in the Peace Conference, JAN CHRISTIAN SMUTS in Ireland doing his utmost to bring about friendly relations between Sinn Fein, Ulster and England. Himself a valiant fighter against the British in the Boer war, he has become one of the great pacificators and leaders of the empire.

It is worthy of notice that since he undertook to compose the ancient English-Irish quarrel there has been a noticeable access of optimism among all who sincerely long for peace, optimism clearly mirrored in the London press of all shades of opinion. The trust in Smuts's ability to bring about an understanding is evident in the changed atmosphere in London and in Dublin.

If General SMUTS can compose the Irish difficulties and bring about a working agreement leading to prosperity and happiness between two peoples which for generations have misunderstood, scorned and hated each other, he will have accomplished something no other statesman has been able to do. An enduring Irish-English peace would bring him higher fame than will ever result from his association with the League of Nations.

For Support of Our Ships.

After Chairman LASKER of the Shipping Board has done all he can to put the American merchant fleet on a sound basis of private ownership and operation, and after our maritime laws have been changed so that the operation of ships under the Stars and Stripes can become a paying business proposition, there still will be a big job ahead. It can be swung, if swung it is, only by the cooperation of American shippers, shipowners and operators. And behind them must be the full support of the American public.

What this job is, what kind of business sense and business grit will be required to put the American merchant fleet up where it belongs among the most efficient of the world, is indicated in a report by United States Trade Commissioner FOWLER on American shipping in British Malaya and the Dutch East Indies. This report tells how, while the bulk of tonnage is controlled by conferences on nearly all the world trade routes, as is well known, this control in the Malayan and East Indian trade, the Batavia conference, the Dutch-British conference and the Straits Home-ward conference, is exercised to the great advantage of Dutch and British ships, and almost to the total exclusion of American vessels, even among Malayan and East Indian shipping centers and American ports.

This control is exercised by allowing rebates to shippers that use only the conference steamers. The rebate usually amounts to about 10 per cent. of the freight charges and is payable "in London in such a way as to retain a permanent guarantee of 2 1/2 per cent. in the treasury of the conference, which will be forfeited in case shipments are made by non-conference steamers."

American shippers using steamers included in the conference are assessed by this agreement 2 1/2 per cent. of their freight payments to prevent them from using American ships. But to reinforce this discrimination the additional 7 1/2 per cent. of the rebate is paid in cash, and this makes it practically impossible to ship goods in American bottoms without the rebate and sell the merchandise in competition with shipments under the rebate system.

Still other handicaps must be overcome by American ships. In the ports of Java "the principal competing lines have their own wharves and facilities" and in some instances complete warehousing, lighterage and stevedoring services operating as subsidiaries of the steamship companies. The conference lines have their own branch offices, whereas "the few American houses in Java have not yet developed to a point where they are prepared to give American steamship lines efficient representation." American interests have to rely on the agencies of foreign competitors for representation.

Despite the rebates and other

hindrances thrown in the way of American vessels, there is no ground for criticism of foreign steamship operators. The world has no time for fiddling complaints. By exercising common sense and energy American ships can meet foreign ships under any and all conditions once their wage scales and operating regulations are brought within a reasonable distance of the wage scales and operating conditions of their competitors.

Bribery under the rebate system and discrimination against American ships in the use of port facilities and in other ways will soon disappear if American shippers refuse to take rebates and if the American public gives its support to the enforcement of laws and regulations now dormant, but which would afford the American shipowner and operator the facilities to fight fire with fire.

Chairman Fordney's Oil Dam.

The American people know that for several years they have heard warnings from all sides that this country's oil supply is in danger of running dry. They know that the best engineering genius and the highest steamshipmanship in the country have been patriotically contending that the welfare of the nation demands that foreign consumers should not be permitted to drain us of our reserves while refusing to let us have our reasonable share of theirs.

The American people know that the Secretary of Commerce is deeply concerned over this grave national question. They know that the Secretary of State is vigorously insisting with great Powers that this nation must have its rights to oil land grants in foreign territories recognized along with those European nations that claim exclusive first mortgages on them. They know that the President of the United States is contesting to the limit this deadly dangerous discrimination against us in foreign fields.

The American people know that every barrel of oil brought into this country is as good as a barrel of oil saved of our own home supply and for that reason the foreign oil must not be shut out.

When, therefore, the national Administration is doing everything in its power to get foreign oil into this country as an imperative need of American industry, welfare and life, what the American people want to know is why Chairman FORDNEY's Ways and Means Committee insists on building a tariff dam in front of that foreign oil to keep it out.

And what the American people will want to know from the whole membership of Congress when it takes up the Fordney measure on the floor is whether Congress is going to stand for FORDNEY's prohibitive oil duty or whether Congress is going to kill it as dead as a door nail.

The House and the Senate will be called upon to answer this question by the nation. They might as well get their reply ready now.

The British Government has been forced by financial considerations to drop the subsidy given to agriculture as a war measure, and continued up to the present as an aid to reconstruction. The British are willing to admit that the right way to economize is to economize.

These strange doctrines came primarily from races unskilled in self-government, untaught in the fundamentals of free government, uneducated in the basic discord between liberty and license. Their doctrines were born of the ill of which the land from which they came. They are radical remedies, sometimes self-annihilating to those using them for ailments unfamiliar to our system of government and life—Senator KNOX.

The impudence of persons utterly unpracticed in the art of self-government who presume to instruct us as to improvements possible in free institutions is astonishing; but what shall be said of the gullibility of those whose fathers have dwelt here but who allow themselves to be taken in by such impostors?

The summer schools at Columbia and New York universities opened yesterday with thousands of eager students from all parts of the nation on their rolls. It was no more than fair to turn off a little of the heat to promote the comfort of these welcome visitors. The Weather Man with the other residents of New York welcomes a desirable, though temporary, addition to the population.

California, says an eminent observer, "is no place for blondes to live." This may be true, but blondes don't consult the others about where they should live.

The one trouble with women, politically speaking, is that they are somewhat catfish—Mrs. MAYNARD OUELLET, Mayor of St. James, Mo.

A fault only a feminine politician would dare to catalogue. After all, is catfish any worse than the traits sometimes displayed by New York's purely masculine Board of Estimate?

Nocturne.

An old house, moon bleached, 'mid its grassy court,
Looms like a monstrous ghost against the night.

A crane, its elbow crooked to far, dim height,
Leans like a giant jolking in some sport

The cannon start upon the nearby fort;
Three chimneys, like long pointing fingers, rise,
Seeming almost to touch the star strown skies.

Where furnace glows their greenish gold transport,
From poet and arch, from bridge and windmill turn,
Topaz and garnet, emerald and blue,
Lamps, like barbaric jewels, gleam and burn.

Tinging dull ways with magic weird and new,
While, faint as fairy futes that trill and fall,
Blasts from remote ship sirens luring call.

CHARLOTTE BECKER.

Chief Justice Taft.

ALTON B. PARKER on His Qualifications for the Office.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: YOUR editorial article of Saturday entitled "Chief Justice Taft" is so kindly in its treatment of our favorite citizen that I venture to ask you to correct the impression you seem to give that he is not adequately trained for the great position of Chief Justice of the United States. The fact is that no one of our great lawyers is better trained.

He was Solicitor-General under Harrison's Administration and argued nearly all the great cases of the Department of Justice in the Supreme Court of the United States. And as a United States Circuit Judge he demonstrated great judicial ability, as every lawyer in the United States will testify. Nor should the fact be lost sight of that the knowledge he acquired as Governor of the Philippine Islands, Secretary of War and President of the United States will prove of the greatest value to the new Chief Justice.

The Supreme Court of the United States differs from every court in this country, or in the world for that matter, because it is constantly passing upon great problems of government, and for those great tasks his equipment is of the best.

Now, that was the opinion of nearly all, if not all, of the ex-presidents of the American Bar Association in a trip through France, England and Switzerland. Mr. Guggenheim, who will return late in September, said the only developments he expected in the copper situation during his absence would be changes very much for the better.

The copper man was decidedly optimistic about the outlook in his industry. The recent move of copper manufacturers to restrict the output of new metal until some of the surplus already mined was disposed of was a very wise move for the stabilization of business, he said. As a result of this a real demand for the metal may soon be expected.

Another business optimist on board was William M. Wood of the American Woolen Company, who asserted his industry was working 95 per cent. of capacity and is the busiest of all in America. A "seller's market" may be expected next season, he predicted. Mr. Wood will go to England, Germany and France.

Others on the crowded passenger list were Paul D. Cravath, Ods Cutler, president of the American Brass, Shoe and Foundry Company; Sir Joseph and Lady Duveen, Major-General and Mrs. H. Elliott, Mrs. William H. Foran and Mrs. Katherine Foran, C. W. Hamill, Joshua A. Hatfield, president of the American Bridge Company, and Mrs. Hatfield; Darwin P. Kingley, president of the American Life Insurance Company; Count de Sillis, Mrs. Egerton L. Winthrop and Mr. Payne Whitney.

The passengers also include Capt. the Viscount Holmesdale, who represented his father, Lord Amherst, at this year's Esopus, July 5.

Literature and Money

Could the Patron System Produce a Writer of the First Rank?

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: One of your correspondents says that in view of present conditions "publishers are taking no chances and are not handling the works of new writers." He hopes that "some of our wealthy men who are in the habit of endowing colleges so munificently will found an institute for the encouragement of literature."

Things have certainly come to a sad pass if publishers refuse to handle the works of new writers. As the case stands the only hope for literature and belles lettres is in new writers. Our contemporary writers belong only to the second or third class. There is not in America to-day a single writer or poet of the first rank.

There is matter for thought in the reflection that in former ages, so prolific of great writers and poets, these men were nurtured under the patron system. Pindar wrote that in those times men did not write for money. They wrote to make men better and happier, to save their bodies and souls.

We shall never have a great literature until writers devote and consecrate themselves to the welfare of humanity and to art for art's sake, and leave the money consideration entirely in the background.

I am not in favor of an institute for the encouragement of literature. No kind of institutionalism can produce the highest, finest results. But I am in favor of wealthy patrons of individuals of literary merit.

W. P. SPOKANE, Wash., July 1.

For the Square Deal.

One Way for Preachers to Help in Solving Business Problems.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: "W. P." of Spokane is quite right in saying that clergymen should devote their energies to teaching religion, and they have started to fit themselves for that work. Doubtless clergymen in general will admit that questions of religion, law, medicine or military should be decided by persons who have special training in these lines; but some ministers seem to think that business questions which are perplexing trained business men can be solved by men without experience in such matters.

If the man in the pulpit can teach the man in the pew that the square deal is a working part of the Christian religion he will have taken a long step toward solving labor troubles. The square deal by both sides will prevent most of the strikes and lockouts of this work.

The investigation of the working conditions in the plants of the United States Steel Corporation by a body of clergymen was an example of how not to solve the labor question. XXX.

WEST HARTFORD, Conn., July 5.

Dry Law and Crime.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: May I state that your courteous representative unintentionally exaggerated my statements regarding prohibition as a crime factor in The New York Herald on Thursday, June 30?

I did not say that prohibition was largely responsible for present crime conditions.

I gave eleven causes which I regarded as leading factors in the present crime wave.

Answering a question, I added that a number of crimes were at present occurring in connection with the prohibition law—every one knows that a great deal of liquor is being stolen.

I do not consider prohibition at all a leading cause of present crimes. It is one factor, and possibly a temporary factor.

WILLIAM B. JOYCE, President National Surety Company, New York, July 5.

The Missouri Philosopher.

From the January Gem.

An optimist can always see the bright side of the other fellow's misfortune.

Rivory.

The Woolworth Building—Ger! I don't believe I'll be able to see over the new tariff wall.

CHARLOTTE BECKER.

Aquitania Pursues the Berengaria.

Cunarders Off for Europe a Day Apart Carrying 3,875 Passengers.

Just twenty-five and a half hours after the Cunard liner Berengaria left port, bound for Cherbourg and Southampton, the Cunard Aquitania, flagship of the line, started yesterday evening in swift pursuit, bound for the same ports. Despite the start of the Berengaria, formerly the German ship Imperator, officers of the Aquitania said their oil burning boilers would take them to port ahead of their huge rival.

Although the Berengaria carried 1,775 passengers, no small number, the Aquitania took 1,400, including 550 in the first class. The big flagship's cabins and numerous private rooms were filled to submerge crowd solidity yesterday afternoon friends and voyagers. Despite the huge swarm, the ship's crew succeeded in getting rid of even the most clinging visitors, and the liner went out only a few minutes after 6, the scheduled sailing time.

Daniel Guggenheim, president of the American Smelting and Refining Company, sailed with Mrs. Guggenheim on a trip through France, England and Switzerland. Mr. Guggenheim, who will return late in September, said the only developments he expected in the copper situation during his absence would be changes very much for the better.

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The Toddle Top.

What is it turns the town to-day?

The toddle top.

What is it all the fakers brag?

The toddle top.

It's seized upon this torrid town.

And twirled it almost upside down.

And makes the corner copper brown—

The toddle top.

What comes to table with the tea?

The toddle top.

What makes the families disagree?

The toddle top.

It's put the kibosh on the bones.

They roll no more but weep with moans;

Yea, seven, "seven" now disowns

The todd